



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
Patent and Trademark Office

NOTICE OF ALLOWANCE AND ISSUE FEE DUE

DM21/0930

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| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | TOTAL CLAIMS | EXAMINER AND GROUP ART UNIT | DATE MAILED |
|-----------------------|-------------|--------------|-----------------------------|---------------|
| 09/015,653 | 01/29/98 | 056 | CHENG, J | 3713 09/30/99 |
| First Named Applicant | HO, | | | |

TITLE OF INVENTION COMPUTER-AIDED GROUP-LEARNING METHODS AND SYSTEMS

| ATTY'S DOCKET NO. | CLASS-SUBCLASS | BATCH NO. | APPLN. TYPE | SMALL ENTITY | FEES DUE | DATE DUE |
|-------------------|----------------|-----------|-------------|--------------|----------|----------|
| 3 150 | 434-350.000 | C38 | UTILITY | YES | \$605.00 | 12/30/99 |

**THE APPLICATION IDENTIFIED ABOVE HAS BEEN EXAMINED AND IS ALLOWED FOR ISSUANCE AS A PATENT.
PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS CLOSED.**

**THE ISSUE FEE MUST BE PAID WITHIN THREE MONTHS FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS NOTICE OR THIS
APPLICATION SHALL BE REGARDED AS ABANDONED. THIS STATUTORY PERIOD CANNOT BE EXTENDED.**

HOW TO RESPOND TO THIS NOTICE:

I. Review the SMALL ENTITY status shown above.

If the SMALL ENTITY is shown as YES, verify your current SMALL ENTITY status:

- A. If the status is changed, pay twice the amount of the FEE DUE shown above and notify the Patent and Trademark Office of the change in status, or
- B. If the status is the same, pay the FEE DUE shown above.

If the SMALL ENTITY is shown as NO:

- A. Pay FEE DUE shown above, or
- B. File verified statement of Small Entity Status before, or with, payment of 1/2 the FEE DUE shown above.

II. Part B-Issue Fee Transmittal should be completed and returned to the Patent and Trademark Office (PTO) with your ISSUE FEE. Even if the ISSUE FEE has already been paid by charge to deposit account, Part B Issue Fee Transmittal should be completed and returned. If you are charging the ISSUE FEE to your deposit account, section "4b" of Part B-Issue Fee Transmittal should be completed and an extra copy of the form should be submitted.

III. All communications regarding this application must give application number and batch number. Please direct all communications prior to issuance to Box ISSUE FEE unless advised to the contrary.

IMPORTANT REMINDER: Utility patents issuing on applications filed on or after Dec. 12, 1980 may require payment of maintenance fees. It is patentee's responsibility to ensure timely payment of maintenance fees when due.

PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE COPY

| | | |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Notice of Allowability | Application No. 09/015,653 | Applicant(s) Ho et al |
| | Examiner Joe H. Cheng | Group Art Unit 3713 |

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance and Issue Fee Due or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course.

- This communication is responsive to the Preliminary Amendment filed on September 27, 1999.
- The allowed claim(s) is/are 1, 3, 4, 6, 9-15, and 18-62.
- The drawings filed on Jan 29, 1998 are acceptable.
- Acknowledgement is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d).
 - All Some* None of the CERTIFIED copies of the priority documents have been
 - received.
 - received in Application No. (Series Code/Serial Number) _____.
 - received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- *Certified copies not received: _____.
- Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR RESPONSE to comply with the requirements noted below is set to EXPIRE THREE MONTHS FROM THE "DATE MAILED" of this Office action. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application. Extensions of time may be obtained under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a).

- Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL APPLICATION, PTO-152, which discloses that the oath or declaration is deficient. A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION IS REQUIRED.
- Applicant MUST submit NEW FORMAL DRAWINGS
 - because the originally filed drawings were declared by applicant to be informal.
 - including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948, attached hereto or to Paper No. _____.
 - including changes required by the proposed drawing correction filed on _____, which has been approved by the examiner.
 - including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment/Comment.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the reverse side of the drawings. The drawings should be filed as a separate paper with a transmittal letter addressed to the Official Draftsperson.
- Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Any response to this letter should include, in the upper right hand corner, the APPLICATION NUMBER (SERIES CODE/SERIAL NUMBER). If applicant has received a Notice of Allowance and Issue Fee Due, the ISSUE BATCH NUMBER and DATE of the NOTICE OF ALLOWANCE should also be included.

Attachment(s)

- Notice of References Cited, PTO-892
- Information Disclosure Statement(s), PTO-1449, Paper No(s). 2 and 3
- Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948
- Notice of Informal Patent Application, PTO-152
- Interview Summary, PTO-413
- Examiner's Amendment/Comment
- Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
- Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance

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REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

1. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Ryu et al (U.S. Pat. 5,295,836) - note Figs. 1-13;

Sudman et al (U.S. Pat. No. 5,385,475) - note Figs. 1a-19;

Lubin et al (U.S. Pat. No. 5,395,243) - note Figs. 1-18;

Lemelson et al (U.S. Pat. No. 5,823,788) - note Figs. 1-10.

2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

None of the prior art of record shows the combination of the structure of the claimed method and computer-aided group-learning system for more than one user to work on a subject comprising the controller configured to set a duration of time for user to communicate so as to allow them to work on materials on the subject, to start a dialogue session for users to communicate in an area related to the subject and to stop the dialogue session approximately at or before the end of the duration of time, and the monitoring apparatus configured to monitor at least one user's input to the system during the dialogue session so as to have the monitored input available to be analyzed, wherein the controller based on the result of the analysis guiding at least one user back to the subject in the dialogue session when one or more users have been distracted from the subject for a duration of time, such that the dialogue session provide an interactive environment to help the user learn.

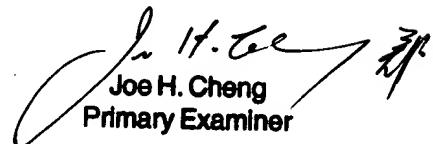
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Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

3. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Joe H. Cheng whose telephone number is (703) 308-2667.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-1148.

Joe H. Cheng
September 28, 1999



Joe H. Cheng
Primary Examiner